

## Deuteronomy 21:15-17 **Two Wives – Firstborn is Firstborn**

<sup>15</sup> "If a man has two wives, one loved and the other unloved, and they have borne him children, both the loved and the unloved, and if the firstborn son is of her who is unloved, <sup>16</sup> then it shall be, on the day he bequeaths his possessions to his sons, that he must not bestow firstborn status on the son of the loved wife in preference to the son of the unloved, the true firstborn. <sup>17</sup> But he shall acknowledge the son of the unloved wife as the firstborn by giving him a double portion of all that he has, for he is the beginning of his strength; the right of the firstborn is his. NKJV

### Facts Revealed:

- ✧ God does not condemn multiple wives.
- ✧ God condemns unjust favoritism.
- ✧ The Firstborn is the Firstborn no matter who his mother is, because he is the beginning of the father's strength. The right of the Firstborn is his.
- ✧ The law of the Firstborn gives him a double portion of the inheritance.
- ✧ This text also reveals the nature of human emotion; When there are two wives, one is preferred above the other as was indicated by the two wives of Jacob, who loved Rachel over Leah though Leah had many more sons than did Rachel. It became a competitive relationship between the wives. [[Genesis chapters 29 through 49](#)]
- ✧ However God often sets the younger over the elder as far as preeminence is concerned.
  - ◇ As in the case of Jacob over Esau, Ephraim over Manasseh, Judah over Reuben, David over his brothers. This is based on the quality of the individual in his relationship with God.